



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

SEPTEMBER 1988

RESORT/SWIMWEAR: SPARE WITH FLAIR

HOLIDAY '88 JEWELRY - THE SEASON OF ELEGANCE

Jewelry presented at the Jewelers of America Show -- richly colored, historically influenced and elegant:

High carat gold most important, followed by antique, old gold, matte and shine alone or mixed and matte black metal with bright faceted stones.

Cabochon stones, especially emerald, ruby, amethyst and topaz; faceted and fancy cut stones.

Mother of pearl, pearl chokers, pearl strands in multiple lengths with assorted enhancers, big button earrings and rings.

Victorian jewelry; Renaissance looks with filigree, open metal work and stained glass treatment.

Silver with colored accents.

Colorful beads in red, green and purple; gold & silver beads.

Open link chains for necks and wrists.

Multi-bracelets - chains and bangles.

Link bracelet watches; watches inspired by the grand designs from the 20's to the 50's; heavy bulky sport watches.

Pins - big and bold that stand alone or small in scale and worn in clusters.

Big rings in silver and gold with center stones.

Dangling earrings with movement or big button earrings.

Men's accessories for women, including tie tacs and tie bars.

RESORT

Retailers and designers alike agree upon the ever growing importance of the Resort season. Due to the continuing increase in sales, Resort is being looked upon as an "early Spring/transitional" period with looks that carry on through to Summer. Ultimately, a testing ground for what sells, the result is a melange of spirited pieces for day and evening.

This season's designs are cool and sophisticated with silhouettes reminiscent of Fall. Pants continue in importance while jumpsuits attain prominence. Skirts and dresses flow easily as tops remain spare and unconstructed. Pure, lightweight fabrics predominate: silk, linen and cotton, alone or in blends of wool or rayon. Rayon knits especially begin to look and feel new. Brights are still important, but navy remains a favorite with black, white and occasional neutrals.

Since there's no longer a length controversy, focus turns to the pant leg. For many, these wide and free-flowing designs recall the early seventies. The difference is in the subtlety of color (few prints are seen) and in the use of sumptuous fabric. MICHAEL KORS creates a smocked-waist, skirt-pant in silk crepe double georgette, black or white. LOUIS DELL'OLIO uses wool crepe for his high-rise pants, with Chanel-like chain, in black only, for ANNE KLEIN. ISAAC MIZRAHI cinches the middle with paperbag-waist pants in red, black or white silk gabardine.

Pants popularity renews interest in jumpsuits, casual day and sleek evening versions. Whether day or evening, the look is tailored. ISAAC MIZRAHI cuts his short and calls it a "jumpshirt" in cotton broadcloth (also in a long version). MARY ANN RESTIVO creates an empire look with her two-tone jumpsuit, in navy/ivory wool crepe. JENNIFER GEORGE goes strapless in black stretch matte jersey, with matching "glove jacket."

Tops and bottoms take on a casual feel with flowing skirts and barely-there tops. JENNIFER GEORGE pairs a black and white, linen sarong with a low-cut, square-necked tank in rayon and Lycra. A long, pleated skirt in navy silk georgette is topped by a silk chiffon T-shirt at OSCAR DE LA RENTA. Dresses are simple in sheaths and slips. CAROLYNE ROEHM designs a white linen



RESORT-- continued

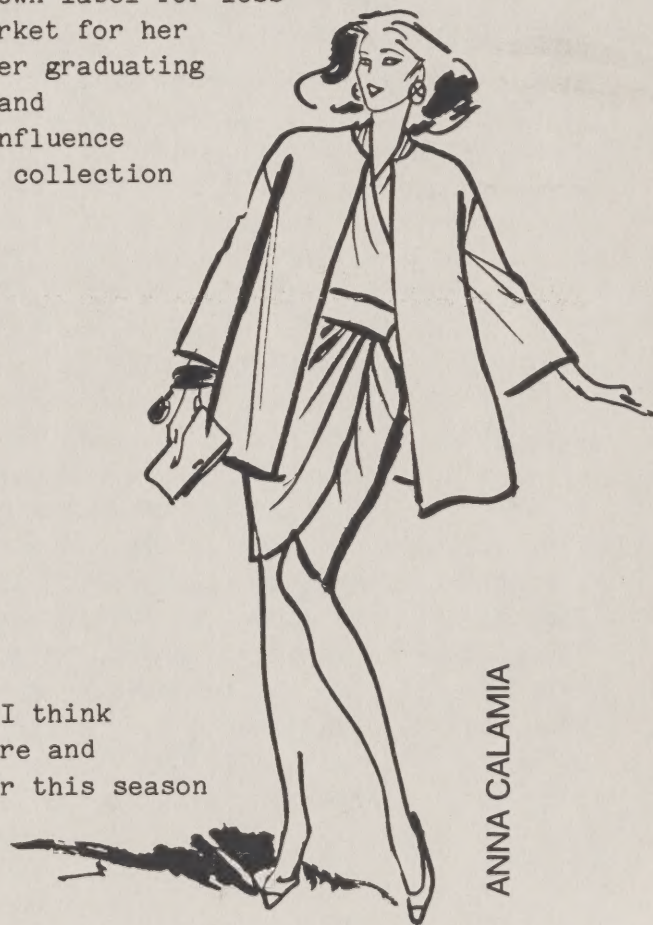
mid-calf halter dress. CALVIN KLEIN's short-sleeved, rayon mini dress is in an array of solid brights, as is his pleated sundress in silk/linen poplin. Loose and easy jackets serve as cover-ups in boxy, unconstructed shapes, often swinging into "smocks" and "lab coats." CARMELO POMODORO shows both, as well as a "no-rain-coat" in white cotton organdy.

For evening, CARMELO POMODORO uses fishscale sequins on a melon-colored tank dress, very short and shapely. Sparkles are popular on day into night pieces, while basic shapes stay the same. At ANNE KLEIN, LOUIS DELL'OLIO tops a wide-leg trouser with soft jacket, both in sequined silk georgette. Evening looks best in luxurious silk. MICHAEL KORS offers versatility with reversible pieces in double weight silk crepe de chine -- camisoles, sarongs, tank dresses and chemises in magenta/black, watermelon/black, magenta/watermelon and solid black or white.



YOUNG DESIGNER FOCUS: RESORT/SPRING COLLECTIONS

Although ANNA CALAMIA has been designing under her own label for less than 3 years, she has established a niche in the market for her sophisticated style of contemporary sportswear. After graduating from F.I.T., Calamia designed for various national and international houses, accounting for the European influence yet American appeal of her collections. This Resort collection enhances the female form, with gentle contours together with sensuous draping and shirring. The emphasis is on pants - with palazzo, capri and cigarette pant options - all high-waisted; while softly draped sarong skirts, in short or long lengths, pair easily with surplus blouses, camisoles and tank tops. Airy dolman jackets, either cropped or fingertip length play a crucial role in formalizing these sumptuous separates. Silk is the mainstay of this grouping - in three weights and in a variety of solids, prints and textures from jacquards to raw silk. These are accented with stretch/Lycra activewear ranging from bodysuits to a halter-neck jumpsuit. "I think the strength of my design is in the mixing of texture and pattern within the same color range." Her colors for this season



YOUNG DESIGNER FOCUS-- continued

are the breathtakingly pure tangerine, lemon and lime. A well-balanced interaction occurs between each of the separates in this collection, which creates an aura of immaculate elegance for Resort. \$110 - \$300. 214 West 39th Street, NYC, 10018; (212) 921-9774.

Prior to the inception of his own company, GEOFFRY GERTZ, a graduate of Parsons School of Design, worked for 2 1/2 years with Perry Ellis. "I interpreted his philosophy - yet I was given a great deal of freedom to develop my own style." He has certainly accomplished this. Following a successful first season with his Fall sportswear collection - Geoffrey Gertz's Resort line evokes a mood of cruise festivity with an emphasis on relaxed elegance. The fabrications - linen, cotton, denim, organza, crepe and faille - are transformed into soft silhouettes. A palazzo pant sweeps out from a low waist in "Indian Stripe" linen. Short slim skirts and wide-legged or tube pants mix and match with a short sleeve turtleneck or radiantly white cotton tuxedo shirt. Denim takes on an easy mode in a 3/4 length jacket topping a hipster pant or jaunty sundress. The "cow skull motif," introduced in his first collection is featured here on buttons and zippers. Organic hues are the basis of this collection - in tangerine framboise, magenta, sherbet and pomegranate - offset by white and indigo which replaces black as a foundation. His designs will appeal to the young contemporary sportswear customer - for both work and play. "I envisage the entire cycle of someone's life, and I design to accommodate it totally." This he does with panache in this vivacious and versatile Resort collection. \$30 - \$175. 224 West 35th Street, Suite 304, NYC, 10018; (212) 643-9750.

IKRAAM is a multi-talented design team - he, with a background in industrial design, and his wife Rochelle Summer, with graphics and advertising expertise. Fascinated by fashion as a young child in his native Pakistan, Ikraam would commission hand-dyed fabrics to be tailored into unique creations of his own invention.

Upon their graduation from Pratt Institute, Rochelle persuaded Ikraam to attend F.I.T. in order to fulfill his metier as a fashion designer. The Spring '89 collection marks their second season wherein "The Ikraam Concept," which is the philosophy behind their design strategies, is reinforced. "There are conscious aesthetics behind our designs which are created through an analytical process of examination, questioning and redesigning each component by the rules of logic, anthropometrics and fun!"

This collection is innovative and witty - and epitomizes the spirit of experimental yet functional fashion. For Spring, the Ikraam Concept skirt, dress and jumpsuit all incorporate the intriguing "shorts at the front/skirt at the back" (or vice versa) theme. Surprise interest is added when the two sides are in contrasting colors, creating a "peek-a-boo" effect at the V of the shorts. Their open pleat pant is cropped, with deep origami-inspired pleating.



YOUNG DESIGNER FOCUS-- continued

All can be co-ordinated with cropped or elongated form-fitting jackets, chemise or collarless shirt. The "invisible lapel jacket," in deep navy silk, features a clever cut-out simulating a collar shape where there is none. Shoulder pads are chiselled into square, sculptured shapes, with pique dresses and jackets seamed and constructed around them. Fabrications are cotton, and stretch pique, silk crepe, crepe de chine, charmeuse and, for evenings, sequins. Color focus is on deep navy, brilliant orange, yellow, green, red, steel gray, black and white. This collection is like a breath of fresh Spring air - combining clean lines, innovative structures and humor with meticulous design and tailoring. \$80-\$400. 10 West 74th Street, Suite 5H, NYC, 10023; (212) 799-1376.

SWIMWEAR '89

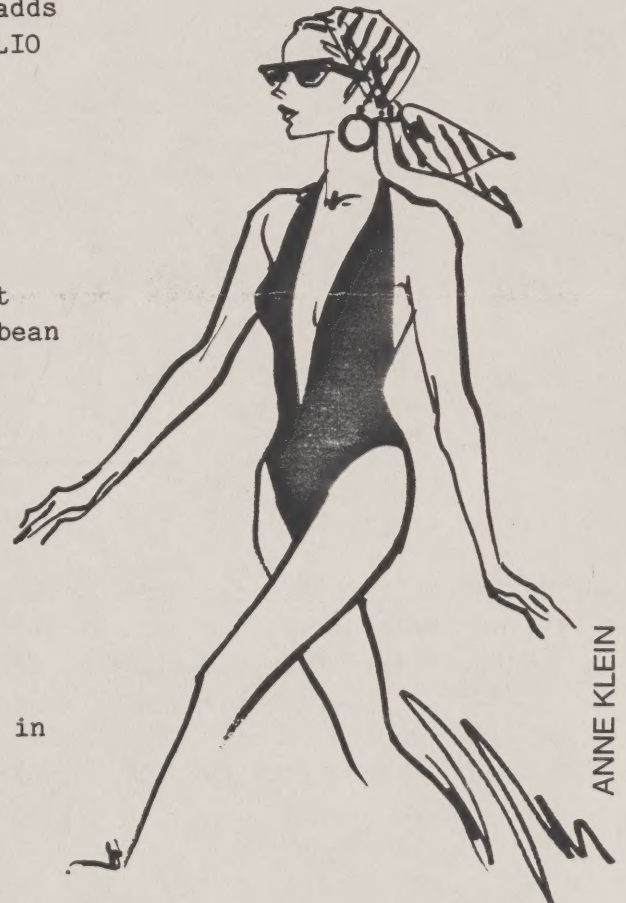
Swimwear dives into Couture and Designer RTW markets for inspiration. The scene on the beach next year will resemble the Paris runways rather than the south of France. Evening embellishments and bright florals lead the way on sleek, sexy bodies in tank, strapless and halter versions. The one-piece prevails, usually adorned with pleats, ruffles or sheer insets, while two-pieces reach "empire" proportions.

Solid brights, such as chartreuse, hot pink, purple, citron, royal and red look good on clean lean maillots. A lime green tank has a low-scooped back and high-cut legs, in nylon/Lycra spandex at ANDRE VAN PIER.

ANNE COLE cuts out the back of a cap sleeved one-piece in hot pink, nylon and Lycra. Solid black or white adds drama to intricate styles and details. LOUIS DELL'OLIO chose black for his high wrap, cotton/Lycra, halter suit at ANNE KLEIN SWIMWEAR. NORMA KAMALI's white empire-waist maillot is in nylon/Lycra spandex with polyester jersey bodice.

Prints aren't as popular as in season's past, except for the floral. Favoring either a Tahitian or Caribbean feeling, these vibrant patterns crop up in many collections. GOTTEX creates a yellow, blue/green and red "Iris print" reminiscent of Gauguin. A pink and green floral on yellow ground is by ADRIENNE VITTADINI, in polyester, cotton and Lycra. Often floral maillots are skirted for full femininity, looking very Lacroix. CHRISTIAN DIOR's tropical print is skirted and strapless in a Lycra blend.

Lycra is the fabric of the season, hugging the body in various blends, most notably with cotton, nylon,



SWIMWEAR '89-- continued

and polyester. But the news this season comes with the addition of "evening" fabrics. Sheer chiffons, crepes, crushed or panne velvets, lace, cotton voile and silk or satin blends appear in most of the collections. Polyester satin ribbon on a Lycra tank works in pink horizontal lines at Christian Dior. A sheer purple midriff is the focus of a black puckered suit, in nylon/Lycra by LIZA BRUCE.

Treatment of fabric, on many of the designs, continues the "after-five" effect. Shirring, pleats, draping and ruffles are present throughout. LIZA BRUCE makes use of Fortuny pleats; while LA BLANCA attributes the inspiration of a strapless one-piece with hand-tucked bodice to Ungaro. Plunging halters and off-shoulder looks are popular as well. BILL BLASS drapes a teal off-the-shoulder maillot around the back. And LOUIS DELL'OLIO sculpts a black nylon/Lycra, V-neck halter with sheer back inset for ANNE KLEIN.

The two-piece has not disappeared. There are a few strings and some bandeaus, but that look is becoming more "junior." The newest two-piece covers more than some maillots. LA BLANCA creates a sophisticated look with a shirred top and bottom that reaches high above the midriff. This empire look is one of the many designer RTW treatments that successfully translates into Swimwear '89.



INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

GAUDI (Spring/Summer Women's Collections) IN BARCELONA -- Sept. 24 - 26
CANADIAN FASHION FAIR (Collections '89) IN TORONTO -- Sept. 25 - 27
PRESS PREVIEW OF CALIFORNIA (Spring) COLLECTIONS IN LOS ANGELES -- Sept. 26 - 28
SPRING COLLECTIONS IN NEW YORK -- Oct. 24 - Nov. 4

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